Entered w/RCE 3/9/05

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to detect *van*A in a sample, comprising:

a) contacting a sample suspected of comprising amplified *vanA* nucleic acid with at least one *vanA*-specific oligonucleotide probe under conditions effective to form a double stranded hybrid between the *vanA*-specific oligonucleotide probe and *vanA* nucleic acid in the sample, wherein the *vanA*-specific oligonucleotide probe consists of no more than [[15 to]] 40 nucleotides and has a sequence with at least 80% contiguous nucleic acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:3 or the complement of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the amplified *vanA* nucleic acid is obtained with a first and a second oligonucleotide primer each consisting of 15 to 40 nucleotides, wherein the first oligonucleotide primer has a sequence with at least 80% contiguous nucleic acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2, and the second oligonucleotide primer has a sequence with at least 80% contiguous nucleic acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the sequence of the probe with at least 80% contiguous nucleic acid sequence identity to the complement of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:3 is one which is effective to form a double stranded hybrid with SEQ ID NO:3 or its complement, respectively, wherein the sequence of the first primer with at least 80% contiguous nucleic acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2 is one which is effective to form a double stranded hybrid with the complement of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein the sequence of the second primer with at least 80% contiguous nucleic acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:4 is one which is effective to form a double stranded hybrid with the complement of SEQ ID NO:4; and

b) detecting or determining the presence or amount of hybrid formation between the probe and nucleic acid in the sample, wherein hybrid formation is indicative of *vanA* nucleic acid in the sample.

2. (Withdrawn) A method to detect *vanB* in a sample, comprising:

a) contacting a sample suspected of comprising amplified *vanB* nucleic acid with at least one *vanB*-specific oligonucleotide probe under high stringency hybridization conditions effective